

B. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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Claim 1 (currently amended): A device for assessing a degree of alignment of an antenna with a satellite comprising:

a portable housing;

a CPU located within the housing; and

a signal generator in communication with said CPU for generating a signal that is indicative of the degree of alignment between the antenna and the satellite, said signal generator including a satellite communications frequency tuner communicating with said CPU and a demodulator communicating with said tuner, said demodulator receiving a data stream from said tuner and extracting a bitstream therefrom and communicating said bitstream to said CPU,

wherein said CPU calculates a bit error rate (BER) value of the signal from said bitstream, calculates a carrier to noise (C/N) value of the signal from said bitstream, and calculates an overall quality of signal based on said BER value and said C/N value.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The device of claim 1 wherein said signal generator comprises:

a satellite communications frequency tuner communicating with said CPU;  
a demodulator communicating with said tuner, said demodulator receiving a data stream from said tuner and extracting a bitstream therefrom and communicating said bitstream to said CPU;

a converter for converting a digital audio signal generated by said CPU as a result of said bitstream into an analog signal; and

a speaker for receiving said analog signal from said converter means and generating a corresponding audio signal.

Claim 3 (original): The device of claim 2 further comprising:

an audio jack coupled to said converter; and

headphones removably attachable to said audio jack.

Claim 4 (original): The device of claim 1 wherein said signal generator comprises a display coupled to said CPU for displaying information relating to said alignment between the antenna and the satellite.

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Claim 5 (currently amended): The device of claim 4 wherein said information relating to said alignment between the antenna and the satellite is selected from the group of information consisting of: satellite identity, current measured BER value of said signal, current C/N value of said signal, and a quality of said signal.

Claim 6 (original): The device of claim 1 wherein said CPU is powered by a power supply selected from the group consisting of: a battery and a source of A/C power.

Claim 7 (original): The device of claim 6 wherein said battery is removably supported in said housing.

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Claim 8 (original): The device of claim 6 wherein said battery is non-removably supported in said housing.

Claim 9 (original): The device of claim 6 wherein said battery is rechargeable.

Claim 10 (original): The device of claim 6 further comprising a power level monitor supported in said housing for providing a visual indication of power generated by said power supply that is available for consumption by said CPU.

Claim 11 (original): The device of claim 1 wherein when said CPU is coupled to the junction box of an antenna, said power supply supplies power to a frequency converter of the antenna.

Claim 12 (original): The device of claim 1 further comprising a support strap attached to said housing.

Claim 13 (original): The device of claim 1 further comprising a support hook attached to said housing.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A device for assessing a degree of alignment of an antenna with a signal transmitting device, comprising:  
a handheld housing;

signal assessment means supported in said handheld housing and attachable to the antenna for receiving a signal therefrom that is indicative of the degree of alignment between the antenna and the signal transmitting device and for assessing the received signal by extracting a bitstream from the received signal, calculating a bit error rate (BER) value of the received signal from said bitstream, calculating a carrier to noise (C/N) value of the received signal from said bitstream, and calculating an overall quality of signal based on said BER value and said C/N value; and

indicator means coupled to said signal assessment means for providing at least one indicator indicating the degree of alignment between the antenna and the signal transmitting device.

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Claim 15 (original): The device of claim 14 wherein said indicator comprises a visual indicator that is indicative of the degree of alignment between the satellite and the signal transmitting device.

Claim 16 (original): The device of claim 14 wherein said indicator comprises an audio indicator that is indicative of the degree of alignment between the satellite and the signal transmitting device.

Claim 17 (original): The device of claim 14 wherein said indicator comprises:  
a visual indicator that is indicative of the degree of alignment between the signal transmitting device and the antenna; and

an audio indicator that is indicative of the degree of alignment between the signal transmitting device and the antenna.

Claim 18 (original): The device of claim 14 wherein the signal transmitting device comprises a satellite.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A device for assessing a degree of alignment of an antenna with a satellite, comprising:

a handheld housing;

a CPU supported within said handheld housing, said CPU coupled to a power supply;

a satellite communications frequency tuner supported within said handheld housing and communicating with said CPU;

a demodulator supported within said handheld housing and communicating with said tuner, said demodulator receiving a data stream from said tuner and extracting a bitstream therefrom and communicating said bitstream to said CPU,

wherein said CPU calculates a bit error rate (BER) value of the signal from said bitstream, calculates a carrier to noise (C/N) value of the signal from said bitstream, and calculates an overall quality of signal based on said BER value and said C/N value;

a display supported on said handheld housing and communicating with said CPU for receiving a display signal therefrom, said display providing visual indication of the degree of alignment between the antenna and the satellite based on the calculated BER value, the calculated C/N value, and the calculated overall quality of signal;

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converter means for converting a digital audio signal generated by said CPU as a result of said bitstream into an analog signal; and  
speaker means for receiving said analog signal from said converter means and generating a corresponding audio signal.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A method for aligning an antenna with a satellite, comprising:

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receiving a signal from the satellite;  
calculating a BER value of the signal in a portable device;  
displaying the calculated BER value of the signal on the portable device;  
calculating a C/N value of the signal in the portable device;  
displaying the calculated C/N value of the signal on the portable device; and  
calculating an overall quality of signal based on said BER value and said C/N value;  
displaying the calculated overall quality of signal on the portable device; and  
reorienting the antenna until the calculated BER value matches a predetermined BER value.

Claim 21 (original): The method of claim 20 further comprising reorienting the antenna until the calculated C/N value matches a predetermined C/N value.

Claim 22 (currently amended): A computer-readable medium having stored thereon data and instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to:

- receive a signal from a satellite;
  - calculate a BER value of the signal;
  - display the calculated BER value of the signal on a portable device;
  - calculate a C/N value of the signal; **and**
  - display the calculated C/N value of the signal on the portable device;
  - calculate an overall quality of signal based on said BER value and said C/N value;
  - and
  - display the calculated overall quality of signal on the portable device.
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